



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

**Monday, November 19, 2012**

**10:00 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (12-5400)

**Attachments:**    [AUDIO](#)

**Present:**            Chair Genevra Berger, Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Dr. La-Doris McClaney, Commissioner Daphne Ng, Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq., Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell

**Excused:**           Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, Commissioner Sandra Rudnick and Commissioner Dr. Harriette F. Williams

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

Call to Order. (12-5136)

**The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.**

1. Introduction of November 19, 2012 Meeting attendees. (12-5137)

**Self-Introductions were made.**

2. Approval of the November 19, 2012 Meeting Agenda. (12-5138)

**On motion of Commissioner Steven M. Olivas, Esq., seconded by Commissioner La Doris McClaney, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Kang, Rudnick, Sorkin, and Williams being absent), this item was approved.**

3. Approval of the minutes from the Meeting of November 5, 2012. (12-5139)

**DRAFT**

**On motion of Commissioner Steven M. Olivas, Esq., seconded by Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Kang, Rudnick, Sorkin, and Williams being absent), this item was approved.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **II. REPORTS**

4.     Chair's report for November 19, 2012 by Genevra Berger, Chair. (12-5140)

**Chair Berger reported the following:**

- **The Holiday Luncheon will be held at Taix Restaurant on December 3, 2012 following the regularly scheduled Commission meeting.**
- **Commissioner Curry was presented a scroll at the Board of Supervisors meeting held on November 13, 2012 in recognition of her recent Top 50 Leaders Award published in Los Angeles Magazine. Commissioner Curry was also the keynote speaker at St. Anne's Board of Directors and Board Trustees Annual meeting.**

**Commissioner Trevino Powell added that Commissioner McClaney will be honored at Save Africa's Children's 10th Year Celebration for her charitable work.**

**By common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.**

5.     DCFS Director's report for November 19, 2012 by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS. (12-5141)

**Director Browning reported the following:**

- **A celebration was held on November 16, 2012 at the juvenile courthouse for National Adoption Day.**
- **A contract that implements a new system at the Department of Public Social Services was approved last week. This new system will create a new payment process for DCFS and replace the outdated system.**
- **The 2013 budget will be the first opportunity for funding to be appropriated for implementing a new CWS/CMS system. Building a new system with existing technology will decrease the amount of time it will take to implement a new system.**

- A letter was sent to staff with procedures for checking on foster care youth with addresses that are found to match the address on file for prisoners that were recently released under Assembly Bill 109.
- The Title IV-E Waiver (Waiver) application may not be submitted until 2013. DCFS will be asking for an extension and is looking into building in a longitudinal study. The State evaluator is reviewing how Los Angeles and Alameda Counties have done over the past five years with the Waiver.
- As a result of the Katie A. Panel sending a letter to the State indicating that the Claiming Manual should be retracted due to its complexity, the Claiming Manual is pending. Confirmation should be provided by December 2012.
- Staff transfers out of offices with high turnover have been frozen. New staff is being assigned to these offices. The Social Workers' Union supports a two-year minimum commitment of new staff at an office.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

### **III. COMMITTEE/WORKGROUP UPDATES**

**6. Education Coordinating Council update by**

- Helen Kleinberg, Commission Representative (12-5336)

**Commissioner Kleinberg reported the following:**

**The recent ECC meeting was positive. The three predominant themes of the meeting were:**

- 1. Greater concern with education and whether the youth are receiving education.**
- 2. Increased understanding of the importance of personalization in working with children on an individual level to meet each child's distinct needs.**
- 3. Focus on diversion methods. There was discussion on why some children are not succeeding and consideration of how to work with these youth and detour from using punishment as a consequence.**

**Discussion during the meeting included the following:**

- **DCFS has been working on the expansion of the Gloria Molina Foster Youth Education Program, which was proven successful in the pilot phase. This Program places Social Workers in high schools to assist in developing an education plan that addresses each child's unique needs.**
- **The curriculum and student/teacher ratio at Challenger Camp are being closely evaluated. Additionally, there are new programs for youth detained in Juvenile Hall and Probation Camps. These programs include the Building Skills Program, which emphasizes career and technical education and the Advance Path Academy, which helps youth with the recovery of academic credits.**
- **The School Attendance Taskforce, Chaired by Michael Nash, Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court, has been working towards changing the truancy process. The Taskforce was successful in having the municipal code for tardiness ticketing changed in the City of Los Angeles resulting in less truancy and no informal juvenile court hearings. As an alternative to fining children and families, community service is being offered.**

- Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has a group of people that conduct home visitation with youth that have dropped out of high school; the goal of this group is to work with youth on returning to school.
- LAUSD has created 13 youth work source centers with focus on diverting youth towards looking at educational access and to craft new educational plans.
- A data sharing pilot project between DCFS and LAUSD will begin implementation in December 2012.
- There is a system in place called the *Click System* that recommends where children should be receiving early education; however, there is a lack of follow up on whether these children are enrolled in the recommended early education programs. An increased focus on early education is needed.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

7. Youth Development Services (YDS) Redesign Workgroup Update.

- Patricia Curry, Commission Representative (12-5356)

Commissioner Curry reported the following:

- The YDS, Subcommittee of the CEO's Self Sufficiency Group has been meeting for several months. In 2010, the subcommittee met twice a month for six months working on a redesign for the YDS Plan. Prior to implementation of the Plan, there were operational changes with the Director of DCFS, which resulted in halting the implementation of the Plan. Approximately six months ago, YDS began to evaluate a new plan taking into consideration legislative changes such as AB 12.
- YDS had been working towards finding a way to service youth 14 to 21 years old and eligible for the Independent Living Program (ILP) Chaffey funding. The funding is shared between DCFS and Probation, this was challenging due to the difference in needs and accessibility of Probation and DCFS youth. To mitigate this challenge, several years ago Transition Resource Centers (TRC) staffed by DCFS and Probation ILP Workers were implemented. Initially, this system worked very well; however, over time as youth visiting the centers declined, the centers were downsized and operation was limited. The YDS Subcommittee

began evaluating alternatives to the TRC. One of the ideas discussed was to place YDS Workers, formerly referred to as ILP Workers into the DCFS regional offices. However, the accessibility to Probation youth was questioned. After several discussions, the YDS Subcommittee submitted a draft proposal to the DCFS Director. Approximately, 23,000 youth are ILP eligible and approximately \$12 million a year is allotted from the federal Chaffey funding. Of this amount, 20% is used for administrative purposes. The remaining funds are used towards education and housing needs. The proposal includes the following:

- Shift the responsibility of handling the housing aspect of YDS from the YDS worker to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). This would allow the YDS Worker more time to focus on other areas.
- Place an ILP Transition Coordinator into each of the regions to work with the Social Workers and the youth on completing the Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP). Ultimately, as youth near the age of 18, it is important that more people are involved in planning in order to help the youth make the life changing decisions of whether to remain in the system under AB 12. If the youth decides to stay in the system, the TILP then becomes part of the case plan. The Social Worker and ILP Transition Coordinator work closely to ensure the youth has a viable future. If there is funding that needs to be obtained to complete the plan the TILP is able to assist in facilitating.
- YDS Workers who were previously responsible for the housing aspect will now work centrally and will disburse funding to the youth as well as provide a counseling role for youth that are already out of the system and seeking resources.
- The YDS Administrative Unit's role would include developing policies, employment opportunities, locating resources and communicating legislative changes.
- An outcomes study conducted found that ILP youth classes were not yielding significant results. Funding that was used for the classes is being shifted to fund 1400 youth counselors that will work with youth between the ages of 16 to 18 on preparing for emancipation.

**DCFS Director Browning commented on the impact AB 12 may have on the budget in terms of the population growth with youth choosing to remain in the system.**

**After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT \(Note: Provided after meeting.\)](#)

#### **IV. MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **Matters Not Posted**

8. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (12-5142)

**There were none.**

##### **Public Comment**

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (12-5144)

**No members of the public addressed the Commission.**

Announcements

10. Announcements for the meeting of November 19, 2012. (12-5143)

**There were none.**

##### **Adjournment**

11. Adjournment of the meeting of November 19, 2012. (12-5145)

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.**